

I. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (New) A composite sleeve seal comprising:

a cylindrical body having an outside diameter, an inside diameter, one end portion and an opposition end portion defining a tapered portion along said outside diameter of said cylindrical body, said one end portion of said cylindrical body further defining at least one collar section having said inside diameter and said outside diameter; and

at least one link segment extending between said one end portion and said tapered portion of said cylindrical body, said link segment having an outer diameter smaller than said outside diameter of said cylindrical body and an inner diameter greater than said inside diameter of said cylindrical body to define a first annular outer groove between said collar section and said tapered portion and a second annular inner groove between said collar section and said tapered portion;

at least one seal portion mounted in said first annular outer groove;

at least one second seal portion mounted in said second annular inner groove, said at least one seal portion and said at least one second seal portion further mounted contiguous said one end portion of said cylindrical body and said opposite end portion defining said tapered portion and surrounding said at least one link segment to interlock said at least one seal portion and said at least one second seal portion with said cylindrical body portion to form said composite sleeve seal as one integral component.

17. (New) A composite sleeve seal for sealing a conduit connection, said composite sleeve seal comprising:

a cylindrical body having an outside diameter, an inside diameter, one end portion and an opposite end portion defining a tapered portion along said outside diameter of said cylindrical body, said one end portion of said cylindrical body defining a plurality of collar sections spaced apart from one another to define at least one gap therebetween, said plurality of collar sections being interconnected by at least one link segment spanning said at least one gap;

each of said at least one link segments having an outer diameter smaller than said outside diameter of said cylindrical body and an inner diameter greater than said inside diameter of said cylindrical body to define a first annular outer groove and a second annular inner groove between each of said plurality of collar sections;

a first resilient seal member mounted in said first annular outer groove; and

a second resilient seal member mounted in said second annular inner groove, said first and second resilient seal members further mounted contiguous each said plurality of collar sections and surrounding each of said at least one link segments to interlock said first resilient seal member and said second resilient seal member with said cylindrical body portion to form said composite sleeve as one integral component.

18. (New) The composite sleeve seal as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said at least one collar section is made of a plastic material and said at least one seal portion and said at least one second seal portion is made of a rubber material.

19. (New) The composite sleeve seal as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said at least one link segment comprises three link segments interconnecting each of said

plurality of collar sections, said three link segments being located between and spaced 120° apart about said inside and outside diameters of said cylindrical body.

20. (New) The composite sleeve seal as claimed in Claim 17 wherein each of said plurality of collar sections is made from a plastic material and said first and second resilient seal members are made from a rubber material.

21. (New) The composite sleeve seal as claimed in Claim 17 wherein each of said at least one link segment comprises three link segments interconnecting each of said three link segments being located between and circumferentially spaced 120° apart about the inside and outside diameters of said cylindrical body.